TOP CONCERNS OF LIVING NEAR COMPRESSOR STATIONS

AIR QUALITY
Compressor stations emit poisonous toxins into the air that we breathe and absorb into our skin.

WATER QUALITY
Wastewater and chemical spills release toxic pollutants into our drinking water.

NOISE & LIGHT
Unnatural noise, light, and vibration from compressor stations can be disturbing and harmful.

STRESS
Health effects and disturbances from compressor stations can cause uncertainty and stress.

SOIL
Hazardous pollutants associated with fracking can settle to the ground and contaminate soil.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
Spills, explosions, and other crises around compressor stations can threaten surrounding communities.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

✓ Have an EHP public health nurse visit you or come in for a health assessment
✓ Request free air or water monitoring from EHP
✓ Join the Health Effects Registry
✓ Place a HEPA-certified air filter in your home
✓ Remove avoidable indoor air pollutants
✓ Pay attention to the weather and when it contributes to poor air quality
✓ Contact your health care provider about symptoms
✓ Contact your local government representatives to demand greater setback distances

DO I HAVE A DANGEROUS NEIGHBOR?

Why You Should Be Concerned About Living Near a Compressor Station

For more information, visit environmentalhealthproject.org

SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT
2001 Waterdam Plaza Drive, Suite 201
McMurray, PA 15317
724.260.5504
WHY IS IT DANGEROUS TO LIVE NEAR COMPRESSOR STATIONS?

Shale gas emissions can cause serious health problems. Health effects may range from headaches and respiratory issues to asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), poor birth outcomes, and cancer.

WHAT IS A COMPRESSOR STATION?
Shale gas extraction (fracking) is supported by a network of facilities. Compressor stations, located every 40 to 70 miles along natural gas pipelines, take incoming gas, clean it, compress it, and send it to the next part of the pipeline. Compressor stations help maintain the pressure to keep the gas moving.

Compressor stations periodically vent gas to depressurize the system. These events are called “blowdowns” and can result in dangerous spikes in emissions. Because of their size, compressor stations emit much more pollution than the average shale gas well.

HAZARDOUS POLLUTANTS RELEASED FROM COMPRESSOR STATIONS

- Toxic chemicals like nitrous oxides, carbon monoxide, and formaldehyde
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) like benzene
- Small particulate matter that can travel deep into the lungs when you breathe
- Methane that causes climate change

HOW FAR CAN A COMPRESSOR STATION BE FROM MY HOME OR SCHOOL?
The current setback distance for compressor stations in Pennsylvania is 750 feet from existing buildings like homes or schools. This distance is not based on science or health. It is simply a number policymakers could agree on.

WHAT IS A SAFE DISTANCE FROM A COMPRESSOR STATION?
Increasing the distance from 750 feet from homes or schools to 3,281 feet (0.6 miles) would mean that people who live nearby are 20 to 40 times less likely to be exposed to dangerous shale gas emissions.*

IF YOU LIVE WITHIN THREE MILES OF A COMPRESSOR STATION, YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO DANGEROUS EMISSIONS AND MAY SUFFER SERIOUS HEALTH EFFECTS.

*based on inventory from PA DEP and the EHP air exposure model.